THE Numb. 90.

VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

Containing the freſheſt Advices, Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Friday, April 14, to Friday, April 21, 1738.

Maryland, March 10, 1737.

Mr. *Parks*,

I HAVE ſeen with ſome Pleaſure, in the *Penſylvania* GAZETTE, of *February* 28, what has been deſir'd and juſtly expected for a while, an open and publick Examination of *The Propoſal about Tobacco*, now under the Conſideration of the Planters: And, as a Planter my ſelf, would heartily thank the Gentleman, if known to me, for his tender Concern for us. The Truth of a Point ſo material, will moſt certainly by that Manner be better cleared and aſcertained, than by oblique and hidden Oppoſition, or private Inſinuations.

As Calculation is the ſureſt Means of explaining Matters of this Nature, when founded upon true Grounds, ſo I doubt not, the Gentleman has made his, upon the beſt he has been able to find. If they are true and ſolid, ſo ſhall be his Building, or (as he calls it) *his Plan*; if they are falſe, or beſide the Queſtion, the Building muſt fall to the Ground: Inſtead of the promis'd Demonſtration, we ſhall find only a looſe and unproved Aſſertion; inſtead of being deterred from a *diſadvantageous Contract*, we unwary Planters may be ſeduced to refuſe a very *advantageous and neceſſary one*.

The Gentleman *reſolved* to ſhew the Loſs the Planters ſhall be under, by accepting of this *Propoſal*, begins with the Suppoſition, that the Loſs of Weight muſt only be imputed to the deceitful way of Weighing with Steelyards; and he very confidently affirms, that the Tobacco, if weighed with Scales here, will actually go to Sale, very near the ſame Weights at *London*, Trett and Drafts deducted.

It is a Pity the Gentleman has forgot the accidental Damages, which the Buyers according to this *Propoſal* take upon themſelves; the unavoidable Pilferage, and the Waſte they run the Riſque of. Theſe Circumſtances, ſo material in the *Propoſal*, ſo conſiderable and inducing to the Planters, were not to be omitted, and deſerved a better Anſwer for, than a bare Aſſertion contrary to evident Facts, and to conſtant and general Experience. Inſtead of his meer groundleſs Aſſertion, when the Gentleman pleaſes to be known, he ſhall be convinced by poſitive Teſtimony of Perſons here of an undoubted Exactneſs, who weigh conſtantly their Tobacco with Scales, that Hogſheads have loſt from One Hundred to Two. Let us take the Half for the common Loſs, including Trett, Drafts, &c. what becomes of the Gentleman's Calculation?

It was to be hoped, that the Calculation would have been made upon that Sort of Tobacco which is in Queſtion, *dull Leaf* Tobacco, of good Quality, but yet *dull*: Inſtead of that, we are told of a Demonſtration, that Tobacco ſold from Two Pence Three Eighths to Four Pence, will clear more than if ſold according to the *Propoſal*. After what has been ſaid of the Loſs of Weight, this too may be boldly denied, of Tobacco ſold at Two Pence Three Eighths, even at Two Pence Half Penny. But the Gentleman's Buſineſs was to prove, that Tobacco ſold at *London*, at Two Pence Farthing, clears more than if ſold according to the *Propoſal*; inſtead of which, he proves, that if *dull Tobacco* can be ſold at Two Pence Three Farthings, or even Four Pence, we ſhall be Loſers by accepting of Five Pounds *Sterling* for every Hogſhead of 900 lbs. A Concluſion, which I hope did not want any Demonſtration.

A Calculation by which it is ſhewn, that the Planters taking Five Pounds an Hogſhead inſtead of Fifty, Sixty, or Seventy Shillings they get more commonly, ſhall be great Loſers, even Loſers of Six Pounds, Ten Shillings and Six Pence, upon every Hogſhead, cannot but be very curious, and may perhaps be uſeful to thoſe few Perſons who have the good Fortune to be favoured with ſuch Prices: But it is to no Purpoſe here, ſince the *Propoſers* neither ask nor want that Sort of Tobacco.

For my own Part, I don't know how much the high Price of ſome few Hogſheads pick'd out of Thouſands, may delude Perſons willing to be deluded; but after a fair and exact Review of my own *Accounts of Sale*, and of many of my Friends, who ſhip ſome 40, 50, or more Hogſheads, I have convinced my ſelf and others, that even with the Help of thoſe high-rated Tobaccos, the Parcel taken all together has not cleared ſo much as the Price now offered.

I have ſeen Accounts of Tobacco ſold, even to the *French*, at One Penny Seven Eighths, Two Pence, and Two Pence One Eighth, and don't queſtion but the Gentleman has ſeen the like which he ſhould not have forgot in a fair Calculation, as he has done, beginning at Two Pence One Fourth, as if it was the loweſt Price of Tobacco. If the *French* take the worſt Sort, as the Gentleman affirms, let him explain to us, what is the Sort which is ſold at home from One Penny One Fourth to Two Pence One Eighth; let him explain, how it may happen, that the Price which is now offered, which is leſs than Two Pence One Fourth to the *French*, brings in the Country, for Fifteen Thouſand Hogſheads, Seventy Five Thouſand Pounds, as much, if not more, than the Totality of our Crop. If the Gentleman's Calculation is right, and the Price of Tobacco muſt be taken at a Medium from Two Pence Farthing to Four Pence, the whole Crop of *Maryland* muſt amount to about 200,000 *l. Sterling*. Is the Gentleman not in the Caſe, where proving too much, one proves nothing at all.

The Queſtion then, for being fairly ſtated, required another Calculation, to be added by the Gentleman. We are told in a printed *Memorial*, that the *French* Farmers neither will nor can give for Tobacco above Two Pence One Fourth, nor even ſo much: We are told, they can command the Price at home, and that this Propoſal is now made in no other View by them, than of the Preſervation of the Trade, eaſing both themſelves and the Planters. Theſe might be eſteemed bare Aſſertions, did they not unhappily too well agree with our conſtant Experience, theſe many Years the preſent Farmers have managed the Farm of Tobaccco. Almoſt every Year they threatened to reduce the Price, and they have done it, every Year our Merchants have promiſed and ſtrove to raiſe it, or at leaſt to keep it up; with what Succeſs every Body knows too well. Even now, the ſame Merchants aſſure us unanimouſly, that it has not been in their Power to raiſe the Price above Two Pence One Fourth, that if the *French* had deferred to buy, they would have been under the Neceſſity of ſelling at any Rate, even at One Penny a Pound, that the Shortneſs of the Crop can hardly keep the Price at Two Pence One Fourth; and that even at Two Pence One Fourth, the *French* refuſe the Third Sort, which is as much as to ſay, that they have reduced the Price below Two Pence One Fourth.

To

To these unquestionable Facts, confirmed by our last Accounts of Sale; the Gentleman opposes his Opinion; *He will, by no Means, admit the* French *can do so much*; let us then shew him, that Reason here agrees exactly to the Facts; and that even without Respect to the Quantity, the *French* can reduce the Price of Tobacco, without any Blame to the Merchants, who can't help it. It is a melancholy Truth, but it is material to us to know it.

The Farmers are always supplied with Tobacco for above Thirty Months, since they don't use to sell it manufactured, but about Three Years old; they may if they please to make use of new Tobacco, stay Two Years without buying One Pound in *England*. If they do, what is the Consequence? Upon every Hogshead a Merchant receives, he must advance Five Pounds *Sterling* ready Money, for *Freight, Charges, Duty, &c.* If then the Farmers stop their Commission at *London*, for *One Year only*, there remains in the Merchant's Hands the Fifteen Thousand Hogsheads they were used to buy, consequently 75,000 *l.* of Money advanced and dead; if Eighteen Months 112,500 *l.* if Two Years 150,000 *l.* Are the Merchants either willing or able to advance such Sums? Are we able to be all that Time without such a Part of our almost only Income; and are the Merchants either able or willing to advance yet further, and supply us with the Goods we cannot be without? If the Gentleman can give a true Demonstration of that Possibility, we shall readily join with him in the Hope of raising the Price of our Tobacco at home, and be thankful for such a happy Discovery.

Till then, as his Calculation, erroneous in other Respects, must be builded upon that false Supposition, and upon Hopes supported by no Proofs, and contradicted by a sad Experience, we shall beg Leave to differ from him in Opinion, and ask another Calculation: What shall be the Loss, both of the Planters and of the Country, if this Proposal being once refused, the Farmers reduce the Price at *London* to Two Pence, even below. When he has compared that Danger and the Probability of it, with his Hopes and their Grounds, I suppose he will no more oppose a Proposal which is attended with no other Dangers, than those, mere Fancy and private Views have been pleased to contrive; which gives us a certain and ready Vent for to great Part of our Tobacco; a good living Price in ready Money; and which takes the *French* out of the Way, the only Buyers who can withstand our Merchants, and reducing the Price of their own Tobacco, lower and influence the Price of all the Remainder.

So far I thought fit *for the Present*, to reply the Gentleman's Letter, whose Fallacy may appear even to the most *unwary Planter*: If he pleases to communicate other Objections, I shall be very ready either to solve them, or to acknowledge my Mistake, having left behind in that View, many other Reflections and Facts about that Matter, which I shall willingly submit to my Countrymen's Consideration. We have not a long while to deliberate on this Proposal: From our refusing or accepting of it, depends our Unhappiness for the Future, or our Welfare. *An ingenuous, friendly, and public* Communication of Thoughts shall most certainly clear a Matter of this Importance, and set it in true Light; which must be, and is, as I suppose, the only View the Gentleman aims at. But for avoiding the Length and Trouble of further useless and unquestioned Demonstrations, it shall be, methinks, necessary for the Gentleman to answer first the following Queries: If he has any to propose, I shall likewise endeavour to answer them.

1. Why has the Gentleman made his Calculation upon Hogsheads only of Nine Hundred and One Thousand; and why not upon Hogsheads of Eight Hundred and Seven Hundred, which are more generally to be met? Was it Forgetfulness, or a fear of finding the Proposal no less Advantageous upon smaller Weights?

2. Why and upon what Grounds does he affirm, that *Damages, Pilferage*, and *Waste*, amount to no more than a Loss of Thirteen Pounds upon every Hogshead? Is that not contrary both to Reason and general Experience? How does it happen that the Deceit of Steelyards is always against the Planter, and never in his Favour?

3. Why, having made his Calculation upon Tobacco sold from Two Pence One Fourth to Four Pence, has he not made an other Calculation from Two Pence One Fourth to One Penny One Fourth, a Price met commonly enough by *dull Tobacco*, and *dull Tobacco* being in Question?

4. How a Contract may be disadvantageous to the Country, which shall bring in yearly 75 000 *l.* for about Half a Crop of this Province, when it is generally believed the Totality brings no more?

5. Why Eleven Shillings an Hundred (for so much and more is now offered) are to be looked at as a low and unacceptable Price for *dull Tobacco*, when even Ten Shillings an Hundred have been, and are reputed a very good Price, and seldom given in ready Money or Bills, but on particular Occasions?

6. Why, all his Calculation being grounded upon the Supposition of raising the Price at home from Two Pence One Fourth to Four Pence, has he forget to prove his Supposition? Does he judge so from the *last lazy* Sale at Two Pence One Fourth, which must have vastly increased the Stock of *French*; or does he insinuate to us, that by the Merchants own Confession, that they were not able to raise the Price above Two Pence One Fourth, is a convinc'd Supposition. Is it not plain, that the *French* refusing at that Rate the third Sort for the first Time, have even this Year reduced the Price below Two Pence One Fourth?

7. And finally it is asked, If upon the Refusal of this Proposal, the Farmers stop their purchase at home, and reduce the Price to Two Pence a Pound, or below, what shall be our Condition here; and how much the Country shall be obliged to Persons who, moved by Prejudices or other Views, have made their Business to oppose it by all sort of Means?

A Calculation, shewing the Difference between the *French* Proposal, and the usual selling of Tobacco at *London, viz.*

900 *lbs.* of Tobacco on the *French* Proposal, will clear *l.* 65 *s.* 00 *d.* 00

900 *lbs.* reduc'd to 800 Sold at *London*,		*l.*	*s.*	*d.*	Loss to the Planter,	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
	at 2½	4	2	6		0	17	6
N. B. *The Reduction is a moderate one for Tret, Drafts, Samples, Damages, and Waste; and from the Nett Proceed are deducted the Charges as usual in the common way.*	at 2⅜	3	14	2		1	5	0
	at 2	3	5	10		1	14	2
	at 1¾	2	9	2		2	10	10
	at 1½	1	12	6		3	7	6
	at 1⅜	0	15	10		4	4	2

800 *lbs.* of Tobacco on the *French* Proposal, will clear *l.* 04 *s.* 04 *d.* 00

800 *lbs.* reduc'd to 710 Sold at *London*,		*l.*	*s.*	*d.*	Loss to the Planter,	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
	at 2½	3	5	7½		0	18	4½
	at 2⅜	2	18	2¾		1	5	9
	at 2	2	10	10		1	13	2
	at 1¾	1	16	0⅞		2	7	11½
	at 1½	1	1	3		3	2	9
	at 1⅜	0	6	1½		3	17	6½

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where the Water roſe within a few Inches of the Roof, and entire ſpoilt all the Tobacco in it, which was between 40 and 50 Hogſheads.

On *Sunday* Night laſt, a very melancholly Tragedy happened: The Ship *Roſe*, Capt. *Dennis*, belonging to Mr. *Wynch*, lying at Mr. *Littlepage*'s Wharf, on *Pamunkey* River, by ſome unknown Accident, took Fire, while the Captain and ſeveral others were on board, who perceiving on a ſudden, a great Smoak, from below, endeavoured to find out the Fire, but in vain; for in their Search, they were almoſt ſuffocated with Smoak, which ſoon burſt into a Blaze, and burnt the Ship, with near 50 Hogſheads of Tobacco, and every Thing elſe belonging to her.

The ſame Day, Capt. *Francis Scott*, Maſter of a Schooner, belonging to Mr. *Buxton*, of *North-Carolina*, but then lying near *Hampton*, where ſhe was put in by Streſs of Weather, going from the Veſſel, in a Boat, loaden with Goods, a Squall of Wind aroſe, and 'tis ſuppos'd overſet the Boat, and drown'd him, together with a white Man and a Negro; the Boat and Goods drove aſhore near *Pagan* Creek, and a Hat; but neither of the Men have ſince been ſeen, ſo that 'tis paſt Doubt, by theſe Circumſtances, that they are all drowned.

There lately arriv'd here, a Man and his Wife, and with them two Children, who perform the Agility of Body, by various Sorts of Poſtures, Tumbling, and Sword Dancing, to greater Perfection than has been known in theſe Parts for many Years, if ever.

Enter'd in York *River*.

April 14. Ship Bridget, of Briſtol, from Africa and the Weſt Indies, with 190 Slaves, and ſome return'd Goods.

Clear'd out.

April 21. Ship Haſwell, of London, John Booth, Maſter, with 394 Hogſheads of Tobacco, and Staves.

Enter'd in the Upper Diſtrict of James *River*,

April 19. The Ship Mary, of Guernſey, Capt. Gover, from the Iſle of May, with 3000 Buſhels of Salt, conſign'd to Col. *Nathaniel Harriſon*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THAT one James Newlands, *who, about five or ſix Years ago, went over from* Glaſgow *to ſome one of His Majeſty's Plantations, in the Station of an indented Servant, has lately ſucceeded to a Fortune of ſome conſiderable Value: And as his Friends, ſince that Time, have had no Accounts of him, it is hereby deſired, if he is alive, that he ſignify ſo much to* Alexander Newlands, *Skinner in* Edinburg; *and if dead, that ſome one or other to whom he was known, would communicate the ſame to the ſaid* Alexander Newlands; *and alſo to adviſe, whether he left Iſſue, or died unmarried, ſo as his Friends, in either Caſe, may conduct themſelves in the Diſpoſal of his Fortune according to Juſtice.*

At his leaving Scotland, *he was about Thirty Five Years of Age, a Man of low Stature, and had Two Nails on his Right Thumb.*

N. B. *Let the Advice be addreſs'd to the Care of* Richard *and* Alexander Oſwald, *Merchants, in* Glaſgow; *or to Mr.* Patrick Cheap, *Merchant, in* Middleſex *County*, Virginia.

To be Sold a Pennyworth,

TWO Hundred Acres of valuable Land, with ſeveral Buildings, lying in Monkey's *Neck and* Powanty *Roads, within 6 or 7 Miles of Col.* Bolling's *Landing, in* Prince George *County, belonging to* William Cain: *Enquire of Col.* Richard Bland, *or the Printer hereof.*

THERE is be Sold in Eſſex *County, a Tract of Land, containing Six Hundred Acres, with a very good Dwelling-houſe with Brick Chimneys, and a very good Cellar, a Kitchen with a Stone Chimney, and other convenient Out-houſes, with Orchards and a Garden, &c. lying in St.* Ann's *Pariſh, within four Miles of a Warehouſe, about five Miles of a Church, and one Mile from a Mill.*

Any Perſon inclinable to purchaſe, may apply to the Subſcriber, at his Houſe in Eſſex *County, or at the Court of the ſaid County held in* May *next.*

William Gray.

A Tract of Land, containing 1000 *Acres, lying on the Branches of* Rappahanock *River, and* 20 *Miles above the* Falls, *being well wooded and water'd, and a very good Place for Stock, to be Sold for Sixty Pounds Sterling. Any Perſon inclinable to purchaſe, may apply to the Subſcriber, living at* Hanover *Court-houſe, and treat for the ſame.*

Joſeph Fox.

TO be Sold, for Caſh, on the 25th of October *next, by way of Auction, to the higheſt Bidder, ſeveral Tracts of Land, belonging to the Eſtate of* William Strother, *late of* King George *County, Gent. deceas'd, purſuant to his Will, viz.*

One Tract, containing 100 *Acres, lying about* 2 *Miles below the Falls of* Rappahanock, *cloſe on the River Side, with a very handſome Dwelling houſe,* 3 *Store houſes, ſeveral other convenient Out-houſes, and a Ferry belonging to it, being the Place where Mr.* Strother *liv'd; is a beautiful Situation, and very commodious for Trade.*

One other Tract, of 160 *Acres of very good Land, adjoining thereto, the Plantation, Houſes, Fences, &c. in good Order.*

One other Tract, of 375 *Acres, lying in* Prince William *County, not ſeated.*

Alſo another Tract, of 1240 *Acres of extraordinary good Land, with two Plantations thereon, lying on* Great Marſh *Run, about* 20 *Miles above the Falls, in* Prince William *County; which is to be Sold in three Lots, equally laid off.*

Alſo about Twenty choice Slaves, a good Stock of Cattle, Horſes, and Hogs.

Any Perſon that has a Mind to view the Premiſes, may apply to Mr. Anthony Strother, *near the Falls of* Rappahanock.

The Sale to be at the Manor Plantation, where Mr. Strother *liv'd. Any reaſonable Time will be allowed for Paiment of the Money, on Intereſt, with Security.*

April 21, 1738.

RAN away about 3 *Weeks ago, from Col.* Lewis Burwell's *Plantation, near* Williamsburg, *a very black* Mundingo *Negro Man, called* Jumper, *aged about* 30, *of a middle Stature, and well ſet; has a long Scar on the Back of one of his Hands, and is bow leg'd. He has been in the Country about* 2 *Years, but talks pretty good* Engliſh. *He had on, when he went away, a white Plains Jacket and Breeches, an Oznabrigs Shirt, a Felt Hat, a Linen Cap, bord'r'd with Callico, Shoes and Stockings. Whoever brings the ſaid Negro to Col.* Burwell, *at his Houſe near* Williamsburg, *ſhall be well rewarded, in Proportion to his Trouble, beſides what the Law allows, by*

Lewis Burwell.

WHereas a Negro Man, nam'd Berwick, *of a middle Size, Yellowiſh Complexion, and has loſt the middle Finger of his Right Hand, belonging to Mr.* Thomas Mingham, *Clerk of the Court of the County of* Elizabeth City, *was, on the* 18th *of this Inſtant* April, *committed to the Gaol of the ſaid County, on Suſpicion of Felony; and hath ſince made his Eſcape, and is ſuppos'd to be gone towards* Carolina: *Whoever ſhall apprehend the ſaid Negro, and deliver him to the Sheriff of the ſaid County, before the* 20th *Day of* May *next, ſhall have a Piſtole Reward, paid by*

John Tabb, *Sheriff.*

NExt Thurſday *Evening, there is to be a Publick and Aſſembly, at the* Capitol; *for which, Tickets may be had of Mrs.* Stagg, *at the uſual Price.*

ON Wedneſday *next there is to be a Ball, and on* Friday *an Aſſembly, at Mrs.* Degraffenriedt's, *of whom Tickets may be had, for the Ball* 5 s. *and for the Aſſembly Half a Piſtole.*

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